

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

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TAGS: PFOR OAS CO CU

SUBJ: LOPEZ SPEECH ON CUBA ISSUE

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ REMARKS ON CUBAN ISSUE CONTAINED IN THE MAJOR ADDRESS HE DELIVERED NIGHT OF AUG 2 AT THE "NATIONAL HOMAGE" BANQUET GIVEN IN HIS HONOR:

2. QUOTE. JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO AN AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA BY WHICH, EVEN WITHOUT REESTABLISHING RELATIONS, OUR TWO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED NORMS TO DEAL WITH AIR PIRACY. EX PRESIDENT LLERAS RESTREPO AND I HAD THE SAME IDEA, EVEN BEFORE VENEZUELA CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WHICH HAS SERVED AS THE MODEL FOR COLOMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ECLA CONFERENCE IN LIMA IN 1970 WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY A CUBAN DELEGATION, WHEN WE AUTHORIZED OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE CUBAN DELEGATION FOR THAT PURPOSE. OUR EFFORTS THEN WERE NOT CROWNED WITH SUCCESS. BUT, TO OUR SATISFACTION, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ACHIEVED, WITH GREAT CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCRETION THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT, THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON AIR PIRACY WHICH HAS BEEN SO FAVOR-
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ABLY RECEIVED IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. QUOTE. PRESIDENT PASTRANA, IN HIS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, HAS EXPLAINED HOW THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WAS INFORMED (FUE PUESTO AL CORRIENTE) AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME OF THE STATE OF THE RESPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD SOMETHING MORE: THAT I WAS ABLE PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY TO SPEAK TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HAVANA GOVERNMENT AND TO EXPRESS MY SATISFACTION AT THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT AND AT THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE SIGNED BY SUCH HIGH DIGNITARIES AFFILIATED WITH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AS PRESIDENT PASTRANA AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA, THUS GIVING IT A NATIONAL CHARACTER.

4. QUOTE. WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT STEP IN RELATIONS WITH CUBA? I KNOW THAT THAT IS THE QUESTION THAT IS ON THE LIPS OF ALL COLOMBIANS, AND IT WAS PUT ON THE TABLE BY EX PRESIDENT MARIANO OSPINA PEREZ. CAN A LEFT-OF-CENTER GOVERNMENT (EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH LOPEZ HAD CHARACTERIZED HIS ADMINISTRATION AS ONE THAT WOULD BE LEFT OF CENTER) IN THE FACE OF A NATIONAL CONSENSUS, WHICH WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED, LIMIT ITSELF SIMPLY TO IMPLEMENTING THE HIJACKING AGREEMENT? NO. MY INTENTION IS TO GO FURTHER. IF, AS HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, COLOMBIA WOULD BE DISPOSED TO RECONSIDER THE INEFFECTIVE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON CUBA AND EVADED BY SOME OF THE OAS STATES, I MAINTAIN THAT WE SHOULD NOT LIMIT OURSELVES TO JUST BEING PRESENT AND VOTING FAVORABLY FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS TO REVIEW THE CUBAN QUESTION. RATHER, WE SHOULD GO FURTHER, AND SPONSOR, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE, THE DESIGNATION OF A COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH EXAMINING WHETHER THE REASONS WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE RESOLUTION BY WHICH CUBA WAS PLACED IN QUARANTINE BY THE OAS CONTINUE TO EXIST.

5. QUOTE. WHEN I WAS ASKED BY NEWSMEN IN WASHINGTON DURING MY TRIP TO THE US, IF I PROPOSED, IN THE EVENT I WAS ELECTED, TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA, I ANSWERED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT I WOULD REFRAIN FROM GIVING AN ANSWER IN THE ABSTRACT, AND THAT MY DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN AUGUST 7 WITHIN THE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONTEXT I ENCOUNTERED WHEN I TOOK OFFICE. I EXPLAINED TO THE NEWSMEN THAT IN THE CASE OF THE DEBATE ON CHINA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN, I HAD HAD THE EXPERIENCE

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OF SEEING MY TIMID SUGGESTIONS REBUFFED WITH THE MOST SEVERE CRITICISM, IN SPITE OF WHICH TWO YEARS LATER COLOMBIA VOTED FOR THE ADMISSION OF MAINLAND CHINA AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE, AFTER THE GREEN LIGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO ITS FRIENDS WITH THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO PEKING. IT IS AN EXPERIENCE WHICH I DO NOT WISH TO REPEAT IN THE CASE OF CUBA, IE., ADOPTING POSITIONS A POSTIORI ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN POLICY.

6. QUOTE. LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS HAVE REACHED AN AGE WHEN WE CAN OPERATE WITH OUR OWN CRITERIA, BUT AS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED, WITHOUT ATTACKING THE INTEGRITY AND DISCIPLINE OF THE OAS OF WHICH WE FORM A PART, SUBJECTED AS WE ARE TO A STATUTE AND RULES OF THE GAME WHICH COLOMBIA HAS ALWAYS RESPECTED. THERE WILL BE NO UNILATERAL BREAK (WITH THE OAS MECHANISM) SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY MEAN CONTINUING TO BRUISE (GOLPEAR) THE WEAKENED ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES, WHICH THE UNITED STATES ITSELF HAS RELEGATED ASIDE WITH THE "NEW DIALOG", IN WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, OUTSIDE OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE ORGANIZATION, GIVE LUSTER TO THEIR PERIODIC MEETINGS CONVOKING THEM OUTSIDE (POR FUERA Y AL MARGEN) OF THE STRUCTURE. BUT OUR ROLE WILL NOT BE A PASSIVE ONE. WE WILL PARTICIPATE, AS SPONSORS OF THE INITIATIVE, IN THE NAMING OF A COMMISSION WHICH SHOULD UNDERTAKE (HA DE HACER) A RIGOROUS ANALYSIS OF WHETHER THE CONDITIONS STILL EXIST WHICH GAVE RISE TO RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 OF THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON (SIC), BY WHICH THE BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE MEMBER STATES WAS IMPOSED. UNQUOTE. VAKY

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